

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is for the enclosed continuation application. During the prosecution of the parent application Serial No. 09/643,189, a non-final Office Action was issued on March 29, 2001. Instead of responding to the Office Action, the applicants file the enclosed continuation application intending to prosecute a new set of claims. The filing of the continuation application does not represent that the applicants agree or acquiesce to the rejections raised in the Office Action.

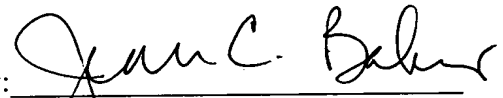
Through this Preliminary Amendment: a claim for priority date of prior applications is inserted into the specification; a sequence listing prepared under the new rules (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821 - 1.825 effective July 1, 1998) is inserted to replace the sequence listing prepared under the old rules (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821 - 1.825 effective October 1, 1990); and a set of new claims is added to replace the existing claims for examination. The support for the set of new claims can be found in the specification from Line 23 on Page 20 to Line 21 on Page 21 and from Line 10 on Page 27 to Line 5 on Page 31.

Respectfully submitted,

Rui Sousa, et al.

Dated: September 27, 2001

By:



Jean C. Baker
Reg. No. 35,433
Quarles & Brady LLP
411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4497
(414) 277-5709